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2021 - 2022**

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Climate Health State of Emergency

RESOLUTION ADOPTED 29 JANUARY 2022

WHEREAS: The 2019 report of the Lancet Countdown on climate change and health states that “the life of every child born today will be profoundly affected by climate change, with populations around the world increasingly facing extremes of weather, food and water insecurity, changing patterns of infectious disease, and a less certain future;”¹ and

WHEREAS: The AAP’s Council on Environmental Health warns that “the social foundations of children’s mental and physical health are threatened by the specter of far-reaching effects of unchecked climate change, including community and global instability, mass migrations, and increased conflict;”² and

WHEREAS: Nevada’s children are being exposed to longer and more intense waves of smoke pollution due to climate change-fueled wildfires, including months of hazardous air in the Reno-Sparks area in 2021 due to the Dixie, Caldor, and other fires; and

WHEREAS: Nevada’s children are also being exposed to more frequent and prolonged heat waves that can lead to illness and death, with babies and young athletes most at risk; and

WHEREAS: These hazards are causing Nevada’s children to spend less time outside and engaged in sports, leading to more risk of obesity, heart disease, and diabetes; and

WHEREAS: The world’s climate scientists warn that greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced 45% below 2010 levels over the next decade if we are to limit Earth’s temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius, and prevent these health problems from getting far worse;³

IT IS RESOLVED: The Nevada state chapter of the AAP recognizes that climate change threatens the physical and mental health of all children. We therefore declare a climate health state of emergency and in doing so:

- **Support evidence-based and best practice initiatives to educate our patients, their families, the medical community, and the public about the effects of climate change on health; and**
- **Urge Nevada healthcare institutions to take immediate action to review and reduce their carbon footprint and the footprint of their suppliers; and**
- **Encourage Nevada’s local, state, and national elected officials to speak about the climate health emergency affecting our state and take immediate action to both reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the effects of climate change.**

REFERENCES

1. Watts, N., Amann, M., Arnell, N., Ayeb-Karlsson, S., Belesova, K., Boykoff, M., ... & Montgomery, H. (2019). The 2019 report of The Lancet Countdown on health and climate change: ensuring that the health of a child born today is not defined by a changing climate. *The Lancet*, 394(10211), 1836-1878.
2. Council on Environmental Health. (2015). Global Climate Change and Children's Health. *Pediatrics*, 136(5), 992-997.
3. Change, P. C. (2018). Global warming of 1.5 C. World Meteorological Organization: Geneva, Switzerland.